

# The Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust

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Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Registered Charity Number SC002731

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## Trustees' Annual Report

For the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

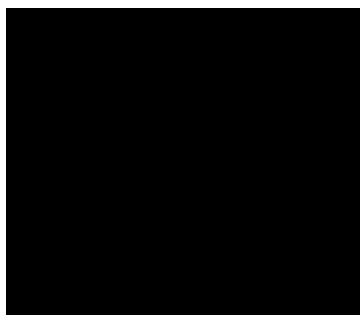
### Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name                      The Northern Meeting  
Charitable Piping Trust

Charity Number                      SC002731

Charity's Principal Address      1 Barnton Gardens  
Edinburgh  
EH4 6AF

Trustees on date of approval of the Trustees' Annual Report



Convener

Treasurer

Appointed Feb 2025

No other trustees served during the period

Independent Examiner



Tangram Accounting  
23 Clark Avenue  
Linlithgow  
EH49 7AP

## **Structure Governance and Management**

### **Governing Document**

The trust is governed by its Trust Deed, dated November 1979, and is managed by the board of trustees.

### **Trustee recruitment and appointment**

The appointment of trustees is by unanimous agreement of the existing trustees and removal is by unanimous agreement of the others. On appointment trustees are made familiar with their responsibilities.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The principal charitable purposes of the Trust are to support the holding of competitions and the provision of instruction in the playing of Highland bagpipes or other musical instruments, to encourage the education and interest of the public in the art of music generally and in Scottish Highland music especially, to arrange for performances and displays in the playing of Highland bagpipes and other instruments and to promote research into the folk music of the Highlands of Scotland.

The main activity of the Trust is to organise and manage the annual Northern Meeting Piping Competitions in Inverness. These competitions have been held in Inverness since 1841 and are regarded as the most important and prestigious solo piping competitions of all, attracting the very best players from around the World.

Solo piping competitions are also held for junior players under the age of 18 from throughout Scotland and elsewhere.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The charity was very pleased to run the 2024 Northern Meeting Piping Competitions with the usual high standard of performances and organisation.

The financial results for the year are set out in the attached accounts.

The current charity unrestricted reserves are £1,259 (2023: £2,907) based on the amount of cash held by the charity.

### **Financial Review**

The results for the year are set out in the attached accounts.

The receipts and payments account show a deficit for the year of £1,648 (2023: surplus of £2,564). The statement of balances at 31 December 2024 shows a balance of cash funds of £1,259 (2023: £2,907).

## The Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust

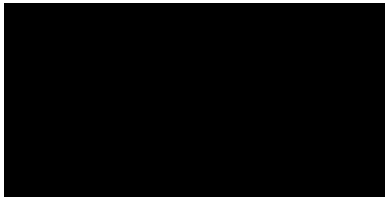
In addition to cash funds held in the bank, the charity holds investments of £277,508 (2023: £268,020) in a variety of investments managed by Waverton Investment Management Limited on a total return basis.

### **Reserves**

The current charity unrestricted reserves are £1,259 (2022: £2,907) based on the amount of cash held by the charity in its bank account. These cash reserves allow the charity to operate its day to day business. As funds can be drawn down at any time from its investments, the trustees believe that holding a significant sum of cash reserves is not necessary.

The investments held by the charity are producing a total return of around 10% The trustees are satisfied that this return is sufficient to enable the charity to continue running the piping competition without having to reduce the capital invested.

The trustees approved the Trustees' Report on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and it is signed on their behalf by

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Trustee and Convener.

Trustee and Convener

## Independent Examiner's Report

To the trustees of The Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust

I report on the statement of account of the charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the accounts of which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the statement of account in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the statement of account presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Name:

Address: Tangram Accounting  
23 Clark Avenue, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7A

## Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations	12,500	3,600	16,100	21,075
Receipts from Fundraising Activities			-	-
Gross Trading Receipts	12,066	-	12,066	12,987
Investment Receipts			-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>24,566</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>28,166</b>	<b>34,062</b>
<b>Receipts from Asset &amp; Investment Sales</b>				
Proceeds from sale of investments	17,000		17,000	15,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>41,566</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>45,166</b>	<b>49,062</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Expenses for Fundraising Activities				-
Gross Trading Payments	36,915	3,600	40,515	39,789
Payments Relating Directly to Charitable Activities	5,914		5,914	6,079
Governance Costs:			-	
Independent Examination	385		385	630
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>43,214</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>46,814</b>	<b>46,498</b>
<b>Payments Relating to Investment Movements</b>				
Purchase of Investments				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>43,214</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>46,814</b>	<b>46,498</b>
<b>Net Receipts/(Payments)</b>	<b>(1,648)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,648)</b>	<b>2,564</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(1,648)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,648)</b>	<b>2,564</b>

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts

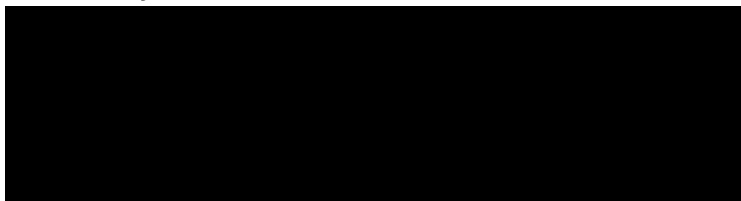
## Statement of Balances

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£		£	£
Cash & Bank Balances at Start of Year	2,907	-	2,907	343
Surplus/(Deficit) shown on R&P account	(1,648)	-	(1,648)	2,564
<b>Cash &amp; Bank Balances at end of Year</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>2,907</b>
<b>Cash &amp; Bank Accounts</b>				
RBS	1,259	-	1,259	2,907
	1,259	-	1,259	2,907
<b>Investments</b>				
All investments managed by Waverton Investment Management Ltd				
Cash	2,448	-	2,448	4,382
Investments	275,508	-	275,508	263,638
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>277,956</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>277,956</b>	<b>268,020</b>
Other Assets				
Medals and trophies				
Liabilities (estimated)				
IE Fee	415		415	385

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Trustee and Treasurer



## Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### 1. Basis of Preparation

These accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

#### a. Fund Accounting

**Unrestricted Funds** are those funds which can be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity

**Restricted Funds** are those funds which can only be used for specific purposes as specified by the donor or when the funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

Details of the restricted funds of the charity are given in Note 7

### 2. Analysis of Receipts

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations</b>				
Donations - Individuals Donations	150		150	425
Donations - Charitable Trusts etc	12,350	3,600	15,950	20,650
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>16,100</b>	<b>21,075</b>
<b>Gross Trading Receipts</b>				
Competition Entry Fees	4,928	-	4,928	4,745
Programme Sales	775	-	775	761
Advertising	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Livestream Income	-	-	-	-
Ticket Sales	4,263	-	4,263	4,321
Stall Holders	-	-	-	60
BBC Recording Fee	600		600	1,600
<b>Total Gross Trading Receipts</b>	<b>12,066</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,066</b>	<b>12,987</b>

### 3. Grants and Donations from Charitable Trusts

	2024		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
<b>Donations from Charitable Trusts etc</b>			
The Royal Celtic SRCS	150	-	150
Clan Donalds Lands Trust	5,500	-	5,500
Piobaireachd Society	-	3,250	3,250
Highland Council Common Good Fund	4,900	-	4,900
Highland Society of London	1,500	-	1,500
Glasgow Highland Club	200	-	200
CPA	-	350	350
Northern Meeting Charity	100	-	100
	<b>12,350</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>15,950</b>

#### 4. Analysis of Payments

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable Activity Payments</b>				
Computer, IT & Office Supplies	543	-	543	736
Honorarium	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Town House Reception	250	-	250	250
Insurance	121	-	121	93
<b>Total Direct Charitable Activity Payments</b>	<b>5,914</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,914</b>	<b>6,079</b>
<b>Gross Trading Payments</b>				
Advertising PR	-	-	-	-
Paypal Fees	124	-	124	117
Eden Court Rental	18,276	-	18,276	19,866
Stewards Fees	533	-	533	1,480
Judges Fees	2,378	3,250	5,628	5,250
Livestream Fees	-	-	-	-
Meals & Entertainment	2,146	-	2,146	819
Photography	150	-	150	150
Prizes	9,013	350	9,363	9,366
Trophies	1,492	-	1,492	-
Programme Costs	2,803	-	2,803	2,741
<b>Total Gross Trading Payments</b>	<b>36,915</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>40,515</b>	<b>39,789</b>

#### 5. Transactions with Trustees and Related Parties

No trustees received any form of remuneration from the charity (2023: nil)

One trustee received payment of travel expenses of £6 from the charity (2023: nil)

There were no transactions between the charity and any related party (2023: nil)

## 6. Movement of Funds

	Opening Balance at 31/12/2024	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance at 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
General Fund	2,907	41,537	(43,185)	1,259
<b>Restricted Fund</b>				
Prizes	-	350	(350)	-
Senior Competition	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Junior Competition	-	750	(750)	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>2,907</b>	<b>45,137</b>	<b>(46,785)</b>	<b>1,259</b>

## 7. Purpose of Funds

	Opening Balance at 31/12/2024	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance at 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
General Fund	2,907	41,566	(43,214)	1,259
<b>Restricted Fund</b>				
Prizes	-	350	(350)	-
Senior Competition	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Junior Competition	-	750	(750)	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>2,907</b>	<b>45,166</b>	<b>(46,814)</b>	<b>1,259</b>

### Restricted Funds

- Prize Fund: This fund comprises donations given specifically to be used toward the cost of prizes for the piping competition. The fund had a closing balance of £0 at the year end.
- Senior Competition: This fund comprises donations given to be used towards the costs of running the Senior Competition
- Junior Competition: This fund comprises donations given towards the costs of running the Junior Competition

APPENDIX 1



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	01	2024	To	31	12	2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name	The Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC002731
Charity's principal address	1 Barnton Gardens
	Edinburgh
	Postcode EH4 6AF

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Convenor		
2	Treasurer		
3			
4		Appointed Feb 2025.	
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The Trust is governed by its Trust Deed and is managed by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services as Trustees
Trustee recruitment and appointment	The appointment of Trustees is by unanimous agreement of the existing Trustees and removal is by unanimous agreement of the others. On appointment Trustees are made familiar with their responsibilities

Objectives and activities

## Charitable purposes

The principal charitable purposes of the Trust are to support the holding of competitions and the provision of instruction in the playing of Highland bagpipes or other musical instruments, to encourage the education and interest of the public in the art of music generally and in Scottish Highland music especially, to arrange for performances and displays in the playing of Highland bagpipes and other instruments and to promote research into the folk music of the Highlands of Scotland.

## Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The main activity of the Trust is to organise and manage the annual Northern Meeting Piping Competitions in Inverness. These competitions have been held in Inverness since 1841 and are regarded as the most important and prestigious solo piping competitions of all, attracting the very best players from around the World.

Solo piping competitions are also held for junior players under the age of 18 from throughout Scotland and elsewhere.

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## APPENDIX 1

### Achievements and performance

#### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

The charity was very pleased to run the 2024 Northern Meeting Piping Competitions with the usual high standard of performances and organisation.

The results for the year are set out in the attached financial statements.

The receipts and payments account show a deficit for the year of £1,648 (2023: surplus of £2,564). The statement of balances at 31 December 2024 shows a balance of cash funds of £1,259 (2023: £2,907).

In addition to cash funds held in the bank, the charity holds investments of £275,508 (2023: £263,638) in a variety of investments managed by Waverton Investment Management Limited on a total return basis.  
Reserves

The current charity unrestricted reserves are £1,259 (2022: £2,907) based on the amount of cash held by the charity in its bank account.

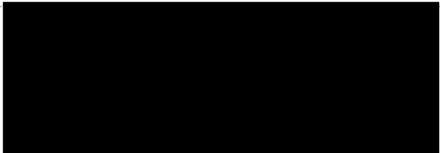

### Financial review



## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (e.g. Chair)	Trustee and Treasurer	
Date	9.6.25	